3 Allowable Ways to Use Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Funds

To Meet the 4 Purposes of TANF



For Activities
Funded Before
TANF



To Support Other Allowable Programs

- 1. Provide **assistance*** to **needy families**** so children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
- 2. End the dependence of **needy parents**** on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, & marriage.
- 3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies.
- 4. Encourage the formation & maintenance of two-parent families.
- * Assistance according to TANF regulations means:

 1) benefits that meet basic needs (food, clothing,
 - shelter, etc.) on an ongoing basis;
 2) supportive services, such as ongoing child care & transportation, for families that are not employed.

See yellow box below for conditions to using TANF funds for assistance.

** Needy families/parents must meet financial eligibility criteria specified by the state. In Iowa, this means they must meet eligibility criteria for the Family Investment Program (FIP).

- For emergency assistance/services previously authorized under the old Aid to Families with Dependent Children (IV-A) Emergency Assistance or Job Opportunities & Basic Skills (IV-F) programs in effect as of 9/30/95 or 8/21/96.
- Iowa elected to use its IV-A state plan in effect as of 9/30/95 because it allowed for more activities. Services include:
- » **Safety Plan Services** designed to maintain children safely in their own homes whenever possible. Services are time limited. Without services, removal from the home would be necessary.
- » Family Safety, Risk and Permanency Services provide a broad array of individualized family-focused interventions and supports to improve parents' capacity to keep their children safe and promote positive changes. Services focus on promoting safety, permanency and wellbeing for children
- » Foster Care Services skill development & behavioral management and supportive services (supervision provided by DHS, juvenile court services or purchased from a licensed child-placing agency and family foster home studies).

- May transfer a combined total of 30% of TANF funds for a federal fiscal year to the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).
- SSBG is a federal block grant to states for social services. The legislature, within the limitations of federal regulations, allocates SSBG funds to help pay for field and central office staff who work on certain social service activities; for adult mental health and developmental disability services and related county administration (also known as local purchase); and for Intact Family Centered, Family Reunification, and Foster Care services.
- Transfers to SSBG are currently limited to 10% of the state's TANF block grant.
- For FFY 10, Iowa transferred the following:
 - » 9.9% to SSBG.
 - » 19.7% to CCDF.

Federal Conditions to Using TANF for Assistance

What the State Must Do

- Meet work participation requirements.
- Impose sanctions for refusal to participate in work activities.
- Limit assistance to a maximum of 60 months (can exempt 20% of caseload).
- Collect and report on specific data.
- Cannot use TANF for medical services except pre-pregnancy family planning.
- Use TANF for citizens and certain aliens only.

What the Family Must Do

- Have a minor child.
- Work towards self-sufficiency by participating in work and training activities.
- Assign child support to the state & cooperate with child support recovery.
- Minor parents must finish high school or equivalent and live with parent or legal guardian.
- Cannot receive assistance for 10 years if convicted of fraud for misrepresenting state of residence to obtain assistance in 2 or more states.

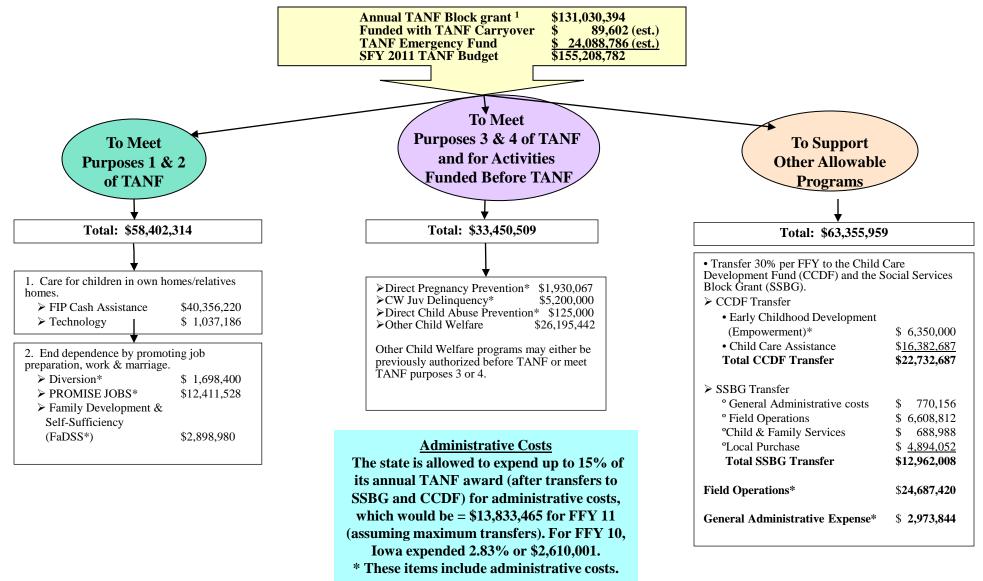
Additional Spending Limitations

- Cannot spend more than 15% of TANF funds on administration of TANF programs.
- Must spend state funds of at least 75% as much as we spent in FFY94 (called maintenance of effort MOE).
- •This requirement increases to 80% if the state fails to meet work participation rates.
- •State expenditures must meet certain criteria to count as MOE.





How Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Funds are Being Used in SFY 2011



¹ Iowa TANF Block Grant reduced \$494,565 for SFY 11. Funds federally redirected to Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Tribal TANF Program in Woodbury County.